

## MARRIAGE RATHER THAN JAIL

A GLOOMY BRIDEGRoOM AT A CITY HALL CEREMONY.

PREFERRED A WEDDING TO THE PRISON IN LUDLOW-ST., BUT LEFT THE BRIDE WHEN THE KNOT HAD BEEN TIED.

Moritz Gruman, a young cloakmaker, of No. 422 Avenue C, Bayonne, N. J., was arrested last week and lodged in Ludlow Street Jail on an order of Justice McCarthy, of the City Court. In a suit brought against him by Betsey Gorman, twenty-one years old, of No. 377 Grand-st., to recover \$2,000 damages for breach of promise of marriage, Moritz soon tired of the hospitality of Warden Pickett, and through Mr. Sutler, his attorney, he applied to Justice Schuchman yesterday to vacate the order of arrest, pleading that he had not refused to marry the girl, and that, although the date for the ceremony was several months distant, sooner than remain in jail he was now willing that the wedding should take place at once.

Counsel for the girl said that this offer was not made in good faith, as he had information that the prisoner would desert his bride after the ceremony.

"I cannot help it," replied Justice Schuchman this morning. "I am not here to prevent people abandoning each other. My duty is simply to enforce the contract."

The Judge had an order drawn up directing the Sheriff to produce Gruman in the City Court, Chambers, in the afternoon, remarking that he would vacate the order of arrest if Gruman would marry the girl. Her counsel said he would have her present, and Justice Schuchman then promptly signed the order.

Before the appointed hour for the marriage Deputy Sheriff Lipsky arrived in court with the prima-  
ner-bridegroom. The latter was dressed in a light-gray suit, had a three days' growth of beard, and wore gold-rimmed spectacles. The bride, a daintie little woman, becomingly attired, sat in the courtroom with her sister and lawyer, awaiting her husband to be. When she caught sight of him she smiled a greeting, but he avoided her glance, and sat down with his back to her in another part of the room.

Justice Schuchman was summoned to marry the couple, but he said he had scruples about solemnizing marriages, and directed that they should be taken before an Alderman. Gruman and the Deputy-Sheriff accordingly led the way to the City Hall Marriage Bureau. Already there were two Italian couples with many friends in gay holiday attire waiting there to be married, but Gruman and his bride took precedence. Between the couple not a word passed.

A young man with a phonograph happened to be in the room calling on the clerk, Mr. Van Peet, and he promptly set the instrument in working order, and soon it was playing comic-opera selections. This was stopped, and the appearance of Alderman John Schilling, who gruffly ordered "Shut that thing off!" The instrument was promptly muzzled and the ceremony proceeded. The bridegroom, both notched and muzzled, turned to the questions, and then the announced man and wife. A more gloomy couple at the time would have been hard to find.

The newly-wedded pair were immediately taken before Justice Schuchman, who discharged Gruman from custody. When told he was free to go where he pleased he jumped into his car and drove off in a wild dash. His lawyer called him back, and taking him over to where his bride stood, tenderly folded the marriage certificate and asked him what he intended to do.

"I am going to take her with me," replied the bridegroom. "I've got no furnished rooms to take her to."

"He don't say any," replied the bride; "there is plenty of room at my home, in Grand-st."

"I'll go to the hotel where my bag is," said Gruman. "I may go to fetch her to-night, and he is rushed off with his friend without waiting to say adieu to his bride."

LOCAL BUSINESS COMPLICATIONS.

Charles Myers was appointed ancillary receiver of the United Merchants of New York, a collection agency at No. 230 Broadway, yesterday, by Justice Andrews, of the Supreme Court, on the application of James B. Weir, Jr., the treasurer. S. L. Florynay has also been appointed receiver in West Virginia, it being a West Virginia corporation. The appointment of the receiver here was made, it is said, for the purpose of preserving the assets of a quorum of officers and directors of the company. The organization was used by a large number of prominent merchants of the city. It was organized in 1880, with a capital stock of \$60,000, of which \$22,500 was issued, and was regarded as extremely successful for some years. The company, it is said, will probably be reorganized at once and its affairs satisfactorily settled.

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